



1036th meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval St. at 38th Ave. San Francisco

Lori Reppeteau
“The Cheapest Bookseller in the World”



Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
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Please join us Wednesday, July 24, 2002 to hear *Lori Reppeeteau*, the nicest PCNS past-president, tell us about the cheapest bookseller in the world and his token.

1034th meeting- Numismatic Potpourri Ken Barr
(reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

Ken Barr, a regular speaker and PCNS member extraordinaire, has told us of *Hickey Brothers Tokens*, *Love Tokens*, *Military Payment Certificates*, and *Souvenir Cards* in the past. In May, he gave the membership a very spirited tour of "Numismatic Potpourri."

Ken gave a summation of his Hickey Brother token collection (the Hickey Brothers owning a cigar store chain in the Midwest), noting that there are 350 different varieties already catalogued and although his collection is extensive, it is not complete.

He then stated that his favorite current collection are his Love Tokens which is also extensive and includes two favorite pieces inscribed with his mother's initials, M.E.B.

Among his numismatic potpourri covering two 6 foot tables were Santa Clara county stock certificates, one from a mill and lumber company, the other from the Heidelberg Beer company!

An American Banknote booklet showing specimens of engraving art was particularly nice. Of course, he brought a few souvenir cards, a major part of his current business, one from the 1985 ANA Convention which was only given to those who attended a boat cruise. Another card celebrated the 1986 ANA Convention and Ken had gotten it stamped at a Post Office after attaching some fractional currency.

He showed us some depression scrip and a Charles Kappen book cataloguing this area of exonumia. Another very fine item was an old book ridiculing President Andrew Jackson with some very fine caricature engravings. Ken has a copy of the McKenzie catalog, which is the first coin catalog published in the United

States to contain real photos. He also brought wooden nickels and checks, including one from the Massachusetts Institute for the Chronically Insane!, San Jose trade tokens, a big aluminum nickel, some ANA badges and ribbons, some old and some new San Jose banknotes and a few New Jersey banknotes (his former home). A George Washington pressed medal of macerated currency drew interest and postcards made from the same material were displayed.

Rounding out some of the more unusual material was a Coke bottle, (a banquet favor), an 1984 die that he designed, some Fremont gold medals, (only a few struck), an example of Bryan money, a PCGS encapsulated coin which allowed him to win a bet, his numerous Speaker's medals, some mushroom cloud tokens or medals, satirical notes, and a magnificent framed sample sheet from the New Orleans Banknote Company!

Although many of the items Ken brought are pricey now, many are relatively inexpensive in comparison to regular coinage so it is obvious that collectors do not have to spend large sums of money to have a collection of interesting and historic material.

Exhibits

Phil Nordin brought some interesting postcards which he described as “numismatic adjuncts”, i.e., items in keeping with the night’s speaker on Numismatic Potpourri; a card from Corregidor in the Philippines showing nurses and military personnel and another showing a Catholic Church. Phil also brought two postcard reference books, one written by a numismatist and using numismatic grading terms for the postcards pictured therein.

Gordon Donnell exhibited his 2002 Proof Set acquired at the Vallejo Coin Show from the U.S. Mint who made an appearance at the show surprising many attendees. Gordon also brought his slabbed Ohio 25 cent piece, a banquet favor, a 1985 proof Mexican Onza

recently won, and a senior newsletter showing his photo as winner of the best green costume on St. Patrick's day.

Jack Free showed us his recent auction winnings from a Stack's sale, mostly California Fair and Exposition items, including an Admission Day token or medal, a medal from the Long Beach Centennial, a medal from the 1909 Portola festival, and he also brought the Stack's/Sotheby catalog presenting the King Farouk 1933 \$20 gold piece to be sold in June.

Steve Huston exhibited his "slabbed" jeweler's copy of a 12th century florin recently acquired on his trip to Italy noting that there he found few ancients available besides the usual junk box items.

Ken Takahashi exhibited and described his array of refreshments including donuts, heart-shaped cookies, cashew nuts, and his own 2002 Proof Set as well as a counterfeit (which I did not see and cannot describe further).

Herb Miles showed off his lucky "religious medal" from Logan Airport in Boston, Mass which was purchased a day or so after September 11, 2001 and thankfully brought him home to California safely.

Larry Reppeau exhibited two Matthew Boulton 1797 Cartwheels, the one pence and the two pence, stating that the coins contained exactly the value in copper. Boulton was a private minter and the British Royal Mint contracted with him to strike the cartwheels which he did by the millions. However, since the dies belonged to him, after they were sold, many, many more unauthorized cartwheels were struck and it is difficult to note the difference between the originals and the unauthorized!

Cal Rogers brought his latest "chopped" coin, a Peruvian large silver piece, and something he acquired during the night's meeting, a book entitled "The Standard Guide to U.S. Scouting Collectibles."

Michael Wehner brought his California Safety Society Medal featured in the Bulletin for April, a piece that honors the beginnings of safety awareness.

Raffle

Two Yellow Cab 5 cent tickets to *Jack Free*.

Three California Street Cable Rail Road Tickets from December, 1942 also to *Jack Free*.

A 1973 1 troy ounce silver bar celebrating the 100th anniversary of San Francisco's Barbary Coast, with a gold prospector & a Victorian house pictured to *Gordon Donnell*.

A California Street Cable Railroad Company \$20.00 check from 1895 to *Larry Reppeteau*.

A U.S. Postal Service Keychain medallion picturing various San Francisco scenes including a Cable Car, the Transamerica Pyramid, Golden Gate & Bay Bridges, etc, etc to *Lori Reppeteau*.

CSNA educational symposium

As you should already know, the California State Numismatic Association's educational symposium is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2002, 10AM to 4PM at Fort Mason in San Francisco. The final agenda should be determined at this month's meeting. Special thanks to the California Exonumist Society for contributing \$250 to this event. Be sure to tell all of your fellow numismatists about this highlight of the Northern California numismatic scene.

ANA Summer Seminar

Congratulations to our junior member, Elliot Wehner, on his *full* scholarship to the ANA summer seminar generously given by the CSNA. He excelled in the "Grading US Coins" class and made many friends with other YN's. His father also attended and highly recommends the Seminar to all PCNS members. Both

plan on going back next year, time and finances permitting.

***Postcards as Numismatic Adjuncts* Phil Nordin**

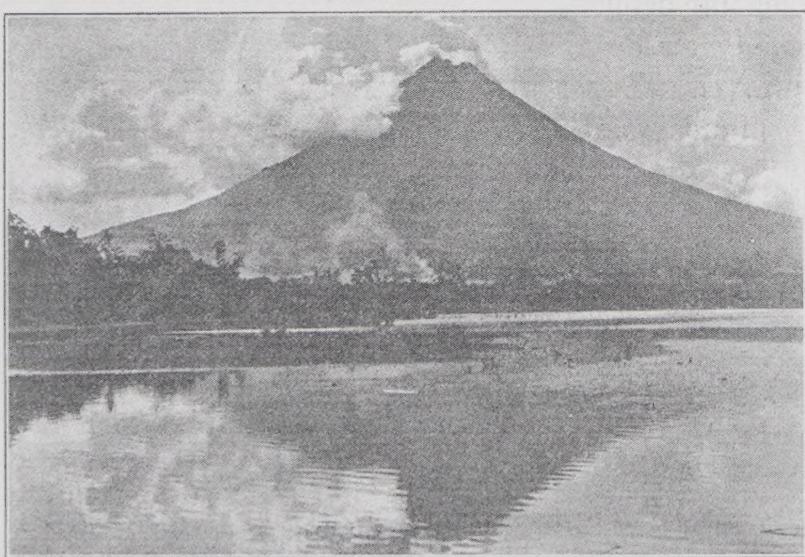
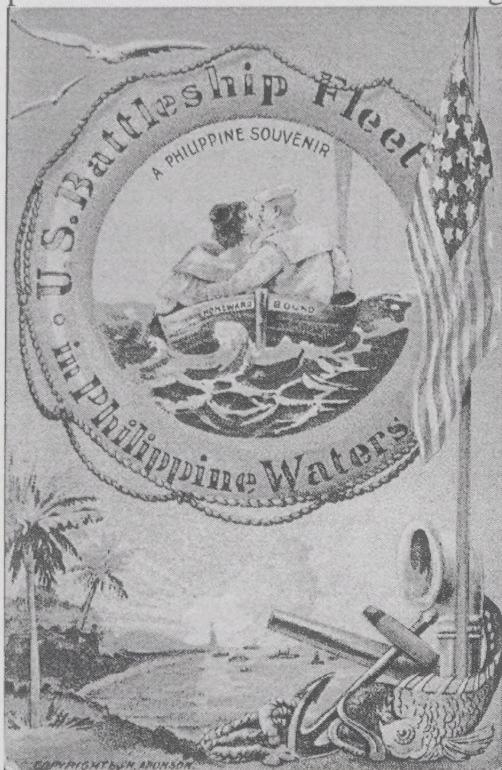
When researching information about a numismatic subject, look for picture postcards. Reference books give facts and statistics, and articles are great for giving carefully constructed thoughts on a subject. But a postcard gives two benefits: ①, an engaging candid picture of the subject, and ②, a first-person account of the scene, as told by the sender of the card. Best of all, most postcards are inexpensive, making them an affordable adjunct to your collection.

Postcards were intended to be sold as souvenirs, so picturing the scene accurately was important. If a hotel were the subject, for example, every window had to be drawn; after all, a couple may have stayed in that room. Or a beau may have proposed to his loved one at a particular spot in a scene, so a landscape had to be rendered exactly as they would have remembered it. Small wonder that postcard publishers were quick to adopt photography as their medium of choice.

Many numismatists collect postcards, and vice versa. The leading catalog of Philippine picture postcards was written by the respected numismatist Conrado Ciriaco, who served as Secretary of the Philippine Numismatic and Antiquarian Society for 20 years. Likewise, when Jerry Zara wrote *Prison Tokens and Medals of the United States*, he illustrated the entire book with vintage postcards. A numismatist looking to broaden his perspective will find that postcards offer much insight into a bygone era.

Notes on the Illustrations: The image of Mt. Mayon is from a postcard dated 1903. The picture was used for the reverse of the Philippine's 20-peso notes issued during the American period.

The U.S. Battleship Fleet postcard is remarkable for prominently showing an interracial kiss. This issue is rarely found with a cancellation and an address; presumably, a sailor would not want to send this particular card home to a wife or girlfriend.



Mayon Volcano, Philippines.



PCNS 1000th meeting medals are still available. The set includes both a proof silver and an antiqued bronze specimen and is only \$30 plus postage and insurance. A reminder of the Society's long and honorable history.